

Sarasota, Florida – Congressman Vern Buchanan (FL-13) announced today his nominations to the four U.S. Service Academies. Each year, members of the House and Senate nominate senior high school students for admission to the U.S. Air Force, Merchant Marine, Military and Naval academies. Applicants who meet strict qualifications are interviewed and recommended by a non-partisan Service Academy Board appointed by the Congressman.

“Here in Florida’s 13th Congressional District, we are fortunate to have so many driven and courageous students willing to serve in our armed forces,” said Buchanan. “Each of the nominees is deserving of the privilege of attending one of our nation’s service academies, but only a handful of students from across the country will be admitted. I wish each of my nominees the best of luck throughout the remainder of the selection process.”

The nominations will be forwarded to the service academies where they will be evaluated based on their academic and extra-curricular record, leadership skills, physical stamina, and other requirements.

The following nominees were chosen by Buchanan’s U.S. Military Service Academy Board:

- Alec Aman Bacon of Lakewood Ranch High School was nominated to the U.S. Naval Academy.
- Marissa Ann Beiling of Pine View High School was nominated to the U.S. Air Force.
- Jon Regis Bigness, a graduate of North Port High School attending the Citadel was nominated to the U.S. Military Academy.
- Anthony Jay Booth of Manatee High School was nominated to the U.S. Military Academy and the U.S. Naval Academy.
- Meghan Buckley-Cramer of Riverview High School was nominated to the U.S. Military Academy and the U.S. Air Force Academy.

- Kelly Michael Allen Dunn, a graduate of St. Stephens High School was nominated to the U.S. Air Force Academy.

- Jessica Riley Gore, a graduate of Braden River High School attending Texas A&M University was nominated to the U.S. Naval Academy.

- John Patrick Graham of Venice High School was nominated to the U.S. Naval Academy.

- Daniel Michael Grochowski of Riverview High School was nominated to the U.S. Military Academy.

- Alden James Jones of Riverview High School was nominated to the U.S. Military Academy.

- Alexandre Pitrus Kelly of Venice High School was nominated to the U.S. Military Academy, the U.S. Naval Academy, the U.S. Air Force and the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy.

- Thomas Kopec, a graduate of Braden River High School attending Marion Military Institute was nominated to the U.S. Military Academy.

- Matthew Ganaway Malcom of Braden River High School was nominated to the U.S. Military Academy.

- Luke Hollis Moeckel of Sarasota Military Academy was nominated to the U.S. Military Academy, U.S. Naval Academy, U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, and the U.S. Air Force Academy.

- Sean Victor Murphy of Pine View High School was nominated to the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy.

- Alexis Anne Osborn of Venice High School was nominated to the U.S. Air Force Academy and the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy.

- Dominic Anthony Patete of Sarasota Military Academy was nominated to the U.S. Naval

Academy, the U.S. Air Force Academy and the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy.

- Joshua Colton Payne of Sarasota Military Academy was nominated to the U.S. Military Academy.
- Marine Paulette Robbins of Pine View High School was nominated to the U.S. Air Force Academy.
- Jordan Romecki, a graduate of Cardinal Mooney High School attending Florida State University was nominated to the U.S. Naval Academy.
- Hannah Marie Ruple, a graduate of Southeast High School attending the New Mexico Military Institute was nominated to the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy.
- Joshua David Schmidt of Venice High School was nominated to the U.S. Naval Academy.
- Christine Dawn Semones, a graduate of Palmetto High School attending the U.S. Air Force Academy Prep School was nominated to the U.S. Air Force.
- Jarrett Tyler Starbuck of Lemon Bay High School was nominated to the U.S. Air Force Academy.